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## THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

NIC #10073-82  
10 December 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : Major General Edward B. Atkeson, USA  
National Intelligence Officer for General Purpose Forces

SUBJECT : SACEUR Concern Over DDI/EURA Article on NATO Operational Strategy

1. This memorandum is to respond to your request for a paper dealing with the subject. Pertinent documents are attached:

Tab A - Article, "US-NATO: Controversy Over Military Strategy"

Tab B - [REDACTED] indicating General Rogers' displeasure with the article

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Tab C - DDI/EURA defense of the article

Tab D - CIA reply [REDACTED] providing information on distribution of DDI publication "European Review" (232 copies to White House, NSC, State and DoD, etc.; 216 copies internal CIA)

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Tab E - [REDACTED] (not from General Rogers), indicating dissatisfaction with CIA reply requesting more information

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Tab F - [REDACTED] willingness to discuss matter with SACEUR if necessary

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Tab G - Printout of addressee list of "European Review"

2. The SACEUR has taken considerable heat in the West European press and, less directly (but perhaps more irritatingly), from unidentified officials in NATO HQ who are suspicious and skeptical of the efficacy of his proposals for a conventional defense. It is not surprising that he is upset over reading about the matter in a CIA publication, which lends further prominence, when he undoubtedly would prefer that no more be said. From my own examination of the facts, I am unable to detect substantive error in the article, nor do I believe

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that the subject is immaterial to either our relations with our allies or to the effectiveness of our approach to European security. It is unfortunate that the article strikes a raw nerve, but in my opinion it should stand as an example of the unfettered integrity of the intelligence process. Hopefully, SACEUR understands this and will not pursue the point.

3. All reference to NATO operational strategy has been removed from the briefing books. There are plenty of other important topics to discuss. I have inquired if General Rogers would like to raise other matters for discussion. If we receive a positive reply I will notify you and provide additional background.

4. If the worst occurs, and General Rogers wishes to dwell on the matter of the article, I recommend the following:

- That you express understanding of his feelings.
- That you emphasize the classification (SECRET) and limited distribution (448 copies exclusively within the Executive Branch) of the publication.
- That you invite SACEUR to provide a written critique of the article.
- That you not permit confrontation between SACEUR and either the analyst [REDACTED] or his office director [REDACTED]

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Edward B. Atkeson

Attachments:

Tabs A-G, as listed in paragraph 1.

cc: C/NIC  
DDI

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